

The Ordination of **Priests**

Saturday 19th June 2021 at 5.00pm

WELCOME

We welcome you to this celebration of the Holy Eucharist and Ordination of Priests. This cathedral is the seat of the Bishop, Mother Church of the Diocese of Chester and the core of a Christian community which has worshipped here and worked together for over 1100 years.

THE DECLARATION OF ASSENT

This Declaration of Assent is made by deacons, priests and Bishops of the Church of England when they are ordained and on each occasion when they take up a new appointment.

PREFACE

The Church of England is part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, worshipping the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds, which faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation. Led by the Holy Spirit, it has borne witness to Christian truth in its historic formularies, the Thirtynine Articles of Religion, The Book of Common Prayer and the Ordering of

WELCOME

Bishops, Priests and Deacons. In the declaration you are about to make, will you affirm your loyalty to this inheritance of faith as your inspiration and guidance under God in bringing the grace and truth of Christ to this generation and making Him known to those in your care?

DECLARATION OF ASSENT

I, A B, do so affirm, and accordingly declare my belief in the faith which is revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds and to which the historic formularies of the Church of England bear witness; and in public prayer and administration of the sacraments, I will use only the forms of service which are authorized or allowed by Canon.

MUSIC SETTING

The mass setting sung by the choir is Collegium Regale by Herbert Howells

THOSE TO BE ORDAINED PRIEST

also called Presbyters

We are here to pray for and to celebrate the ministries of those to be ordained to the priesthood and the parishes where they serve:

Philip Bishop Weaverham, St Mary the Virgin **Rob Croft** Christleton, St James Sam Durdant-Hollamby Hoole, All Saints Gilly Hall Cheadle, All Hallows Hana Helvadjian Lache-cum-Saltney, St Mark **Catherine Johnson** Cheadle, All Hallows **Paul Lewis** Poulton Lancelyn, Holy Trinity **Anna Leyden** Chester. Christ Church **Martin Makin** Bredbury, St Mark **David Murray** Sale. St Anne

THOSE TO BE ORDAINED PRIEST

also called Presbyters

Jen Pilling

Thornton-le-Moors with Ince & Elton, St James the Great

Anthony Rigby

Elworth, St Peter

George Roach

Higher Bebington, Christ Church & St Paul with St Luke, Tranmere

Danny Sedano

Frankby, St John the Divine with Greasby, St Nicholas

Frances Skinner

Great Meols, St John the Baptist

Richard Skinner

Hoylake, St Hildeburgh

Simon Stride

Stalybridge, Holy Trinity and Christ Church

Christine Turner

Seacombe, St Paul, Poulton, St Luke & Liscard The Resurrection, St Mary

Debbie Wilkinson

Birkenhead Priory, Christ the King

Claire Wilson

Bunbury, St Boniface & Tilstone Fearnall, St Jude

'This past year of ministry I have seen the grace and power of God most clearly ...

... in the way he has built his church and ministered to people's lives over TV screens in spite of the restrictions to meeting and being together.'

Sam

... through the love and support of my wife Elaine. Despite her own health concerns, she has cared for me and encouraged me daily in my Ministry.

Paul

... when communities are separated yet remain united in the presence of his Spirit through faith and love. When unity outweighs division and privilege'.

Debbie

... in the loving encouragement and prayerful support of the congregation and their great desire to help those who are suffering, despite their own difficulties.

Gilly

... in the opportunities I have had to serve people through partnering with Christians Against Poverty and through the love and care He has shown my family.

Catherine

... being part of such a supportive, prayerful, encouraging and fun team - at home and at church. My family and colleagues are a huge blessing!

Anna

... the way God's people have continued to express their love and worship for God by loving and serving our community and one another.

Phil

... the everyday actions that have been committed to holding the parish together and to share our worship with the outer world.

Richard

... the volunteers, who have no link with the Church community, coming forward to help prepare and deliver meals to people housebound and shielding.

Frances

... the shared rhythm of Morning Prayer and the space it holds for open prayer, within the shared rhythm of the church year, season by season.

Rob

...the peace I received as I mastered new technology as a way of sharing the Good news of Jesus to the community.

Jen

... in the work of all people coming together to serve those isolated and in need. And in our emergency medical services putting themselves at risk for others.

George

... that of all of the voices I have heard to on my journey, Jesus' voice is the sweetest; "I am with you always."

David

... the local community of Stalybridge and in the many ways that the church family have served generously and loved like Christ which has been exciting.

Simon

... new and developing relationships, and in the sharing of God's love across our parish and in our community here in Stockport.

Marie

... my ministry, serving people within the science industry dealing with COVID-19.
Sharing daily online, reflections has taken
God's word beyond traditional church services.

Anthony

... loving kindness shown to those who have suffered loss, a community rallying around its most vulnerable, and church family exploring new ways of being together.

Claire

...the people and place, where God has called me to serve. His grace and power impacting lives in the midst of difficult times.

Chris

... the adventure of beginning to establish a creative community hub 'The Living Room' with a new team in a new housing estate. God is faithful.

Hana

... the way the St. Marks community has drawn together as a family and helped one another through a turbulent time.

Martin

... community. This past year we've been forced into isolation, however, in community God brings us grace and love which take to the community around us.

Danny

As the bell sounds, all stand. As the procession enters the choir sing

- All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia, alleluia, Thou burning sun with golden beam,
 - thou silver moon with softer gleam,
 - O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
- Thou rushing wind that art so strong, 2 ye clouds that sail in heaven along, O praise him, alleluia. Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice, ye lights of evening, find a voice;
- 3 Thou flowing water, pure and clear, make music for thy Lord to hear, Alleluia, alleluia, Thou fire so masterful and bright, that givest us both warmth and light:
- 4 Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness; O praise him, alleluia. Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One;

THE GREETING

The Bishop greets the people

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

There is one body and one spirit.

There is one hope
to which we were called.

One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all.

Peace be with you and also with you.

All sit

The Bishop introduces the service and then continues

Brothers and sisters, we have come together in the presence of almighty God for the ordination of those called to serve as priests in his Church; many join us in prayer and worship over the weekend, in the parishes and online, to celebrate the ministries of those who are to be ordained and support them as they will continue to live and proclaim the Gospel in the communities where they serve.

God calls his people to follow Christ, and forms us into a royal priesthood, a holy nation, to declare the wonderful deeds of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light. The Church is the Body of Christ, the people of God and the dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit.

In baptism the whole Church is summoned to witness to God's love and to work for the coming of his kingdom. To serve this royal priesthood, God has given particular ministries. Priests are ordained to lead

God's people in the offering of praise and the proclamation of the gospel. They share with the Bishop in the oversight of the Church, delighting in its beauty and rejoicing in its well-being. They are to set the example of the Good Shepherd always before them as the pattern of their calling. With the Bishop and their fellow presbyters, they are to sustain the community of the faithful by the ministry of word and sacrament, that we all may grow into the fullness of Christ and be a living sacrifice acceptable to God.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

The Bishop introduces the invitation to confession to which all then respond

As we gather together before God, and trusting in his grace alone, let us join with these ordinands in confessing our sins.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us. forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

The Bishop says

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The ordinands and training incumbents stand

THE PRESENTATION

Each ordinand is presented by The Ven Dr Mike Gilbertson, Archdeacon of Chester or The Ven Ian Bishop, Archdeacon of Macclesfield

Reverend Father in God,
I present these persons
to be ordained to the office of priest
in the Church of God.

As the names are read, each ordinand turns to face the Bishop; the training incumbents then respond to the Bishop

Have those whose duty it is to know these ordinands and examine them found them to be of godly life and sound learning?

They have.

Do they believe them to be duly called to serve God in this ministry?

They do.

The training incumbents sit; the Bishop then addresses the ordinands

THE PRESENTATION

Do you believe that God is calling you to this ministry?

I do so believe.

The Bishop continues

I invite the Registrar to confirm that the ordinands have taken the necessary oaths and made the Declaration of Assent.

The Registrar of the Diocese, Lisa Moncur, responds

Those who are required to do so have duly made the oath of allegiance to the Sovereign. They have all made an oath or a solemn affirmation of canonical obedience to the Bishop. They have affirmed and declared their belief in 'the faith which is revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds and to which the historic formularies of the Church of England bear witness'.

The ordinands sit

THE PRESENTATION

THE COLLECT

The Bishop introduces a period of silent prayer and then says

Let us pray for those about to be ordained priests, and for the ministry of the whole people of God.

God our Father, Lord of all the world, through your Son you have called us into the fellowship of your universal Church: hear our prayer for your faithful people that in their vocation and ministry each may be an instrument of your love, and give to your servants now to be ordained the needful gifts of grace; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE NEW TESTAMENT

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians. 12. 1-10

read by Canon Alison Cox Vicar of St Anne, Sale

It is necessary to boast; nothing is to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven - whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person - whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God know - was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering

the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given to me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Remain seated

PSALM 145

I will bless you and praise you forever, O God my King.

I will exalt you, O God my King, and bless your name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless you and praise your name for ever and ever. Great is the Lord and highly to be praised; his greatness is beyond all searching out.

One generation shall praise your works to another and declare your mighty acts. They shall speak of the majesty of your glory, and I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

They shall speak of the might of your marvellous acts, and I will also tell of your greatness. They shall pour forth the story of your abundant kindness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

Gerry Fitzpatrick

At the end of the psalm all stand

THE HOLY GOSPEL

read by Canon David Herbert
Continuing Ministerial Development Officer

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. 6. 24-end Glory to you, O Lord.

'No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so

clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

'So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

All sit after the preacher has led a prayer

SERMON

The Reverend Charlotte Osborn

At the end of the sermon, a short silence is kept; all then stand

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Bishop says

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing.

Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness.

He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross.

Therefore
God has raised him on high,
and given him the name
above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Cf Philippians 2.6-11

The training incumbents and guests sit; the ordinands remain standing

THE DECLARATIONS

Priests are called to be servants and shepherds among the people to whom they are sent. With their Bishop and fellow ministers, they are to proclaim the word of the Lord and to watch for the signs of God's new creation. They are to be messengers, watchmen and stewards of the Lord; they are to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for his family, to search for his children in the wilderness of this world's temptations, and to guide them through its confusions, that they may be saved through Christ for ever.

Formed by the word, they are to call their hearers to repentance and to declare in Christ's name the absolution and forgiveness of their sins. With all God's people, they are to tell the story of God's love. They are to baptise new disciples in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and to walk with them in the way of Christ, nurturing them in the faith. They are to unfold the Scriptures, to preach the word in season and out of

season, and to declare the mighty acts of God. They are to preside at the Lord's table and lead his people in worship, offering with them a spiritual sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. They are to bless the people in God's name. They are to resist evil, support the weak, defend the poor, and intercede for all in need. They are to minister to the sick and prepare the dying for their death. Guided by the Spirit, they are to discern and foster the gifts of all God's people, that the whole Church may be built up in unity and faith.

The Bishop continues

We trust that long ago you began to weigh and ponder all this, and that you are fully determined, by the grace of God, to devote yourself wholly to his service, so that as you daily follow the rule and teaching of our Lord and grow into his likeness, God may sanctify the lives of all with whom you have to do. And now, in order that we may know your mind and purpose, you must make the declarations we put to you.

Do you accept the Holy Scriptures as revealing all things necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?

I do so accept them.

Will you be diligent in prayer, in reading Holy Scripture, and in all studies that will deepen your faith and fit you to bear witness to the truth of the gospel?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you lead Christ's people in proclaiming his glorious gospel, so that the good news of salvation may be heard in every place?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you faithfully minister
the doctrine and sacraments of Christ
as the Church of England
has received them,
so that the people committed
to your charge
may be defended against error and flourish
in the faith?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you, knowing yourself to be reconciled to God in Christ, strive to be an instrument of God's peace in the Church and in the world?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you endeavour to fashion your own life and that of your household according to the way of Christ, that you may be a pattern and example to Christ's people?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you work with your fellow servants in the gospel for the sake of the kingdom of God?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you accept and minister the discipline of this Church, and respect authority duly exercised within it?

By the help of God, I will.

Will you then, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, continually stir up the gift of God that is in you, to make Christ known among all whom you serve?

By the help of God, I will.

The ordinands turn to face their guests

Brothers and sisters, you have heard how great is the charge that these ordinands are ready to undertake, and you have heard their declarations.

Is it now your will that they should be ordained? It is.

Will you continually pray for them? We will.

Will you uphold and encourage them in their ministry?

We will.

The ordinands turn back to face the Bishop The Bishop continues

In the name of our Lord we bid you remember the greatness of the trust that is now to be committed to your charge. Remember always with thanksgiving that the treasure now to be entrusted to you is Christ's own flock,

The Bishop continues

In the name of our Lord we bid you remember the greatness of the trust that is now to be committed to your charge. Remember always with thanksgiving that the treasure now to be entrusted to you is Christ's own flock, bought by the shedding of his blood on the cross.

It is to him that you will render account for your stewardship of his people. You cannot bear the weight of this calling in your own strength, but only by the grace and power of God. Pray therefore that your heart may daily be enlarged and your understanding of the Scriptures enlightened.

Pray earnestly for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The ordinands sit; silence is kept

VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS

A cantor sings

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire, and lighten with celestial fire; thou the anointing Spirit art, who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above is comfort, life and fire of love; enable with perpetual light the dullness of our blinded sight.

Anoint and cheer our soiled face with the abundance of thy grace; keep far our foes, give peace at home; where thou art guide no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son, and thee, of both, to be but one; that through the ages all along this may be our endless song:

Praise to thy eternal merit, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

John Cosin (1594-1672)

VENI CREATOR

THE LITANY

Canon Sarah Fenby, Director of Vocations leads the litany

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

Music plays quietly under the words

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all the members of the Church in their vocation and ministry, that they may serve him in truth and love, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Mark our bishop, and for all bishops, priests and deacons, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those called to be priests in his Church, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness we may proclaim the gospel of reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the unity of the Church, that we may be one in Christ, according to his will, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who are lost and for those who have strayed, that they may return to the way of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who suffer, and for all those who care for the sick and dying, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the hungry, for the homeless and the oppressed, for all prisoners and those who are persecuted for their faith, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Elizabeth our Queen, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For ourselves;

for grace to repent and amend our lives, that we may be pardoned and absolved from all our sins,

let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Remembering all who have gone before us in faith, and in communion with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, we commit ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our God; to you, O Lord.

ORDINATION PRAYER

The Bishop continues

We praise and glorify you, almighty Father, because in your infinite love you have formed throughout the world a holy people for your own possession, a royal priesthood, a universal Church.

We praise and glorify you because you have given us your only Son Jesus Christ, the image of your eternal and invisible glory, the firstborn of all creation and head of the Church.

We praise and glorify you that by his death he has overcome death; and that, having ascended into heaven, he has given his gifts abundantly, to equip your holy people for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ.

And now we give you thanks that you have called these your servants, whom we ordain in your name, to share as priests in the ministry of the gospel of Christ, the Apostle and High Priest of our faith, and the Shepherd of our souls.

THE LITURGY OF ORDINATION

Therefore, Father, through Christ our Lord we pray

The Bishop and other priests lay their hands on the head of each ordinand; the Bishop prays the following

Send down the Holy Spirit on your servant *N*. for the office and work of a priest in your Church.

Candidates with stoles adjust these to signify the order of their priestly ministry

THE LITURGY OF ORDINATION

The Bishop continues

Through your Spirit, heavenly Father, give these your servants grace and power to proclaim the gospel of your salvation and minister the sacraments of the new covenant. Renew them in holiness, and give them wisdom and discipline to work faithfully with those committed to their charge. In union with their fellow servants in Christ, may they reconcile what is divided, heal what is wounded and restore what is lost. May they declare your blessings to your people; may they proclaim Christ's victory over the powers of darkness, and absolve in Christ's name those who turn to him in faith; so shall a people made whole in Christ offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you, our God and Father, to whom, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, belong glory and honour, worship and praise, now and for ever. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF ORDINATION

THE GIVING OF THE BIBLE

The Bishop invites some children of the newly ordained priests to give them bibles and licences

At the end he then says

Receive this book, as a sign of the authority which God has given you this day to preach the gospel of Christ and to minister his holy sacraments.

THE WELCOME

The training incumbent and guests stand and the newly ordained priests turn to face the congregation

Dean Tim, says,

God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

We welcome you as ambassadors for Christ: let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Applause is given!

THE PEACE

The Bishop says

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us, and as a pledge of what is to come has given us the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you and also with you.

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Remain standing as the Bishop says

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on this table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you and also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise through your Son Jesus Christ, our great high priest.

He was lifted up for us on the cross that he might reveal your glory and draw all people to himself.

You exalted him to your right hand on high and through your Holy Spirit you sent upon your people a rich diversity of gifts.

From this royal priestly people you raise up ministers to proclaim your word, to care for your people and to be stewards of your holy mysteries.

You call them to serve the world your Son redeemed and build up his body the Church to be his bride at all times and in all places.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

The choir sings

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts, Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Bishop continues

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ

your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith: Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, lesus Christ our Lord. Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven. we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise: Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

All sit

LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF BREAD

The Bishop says

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

GIVING OF COMMUNION

God's holy gifts for God's holy people. Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

AGNUS DEI

The Choir sings

- O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
- O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
- O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Stewards will invite guests to either receive the Sacrament or a Blessing; please follow directions. Those coming forward are asked to return to their seats by the Side Aisles

COMMUNION MUSIC

Jesu, the very thought of thee with sweetness fills my breast; but sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.

St Bernard of Clairvaux (1090–1153) Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)

The choir sings

- In Christ alone my hope is found,
 He is my light, my strength, my song;
 this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
 firm through the fiercest drought and
 storm.
 What heights of love, what depths of
 peace,
 when fears are stilled, when strivings
 - My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.
- In Christ alone! Who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe! This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save: Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied for every sin on Him was laid; here in the death of Christ I live.

- 3 There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain: Then bursting forth in glorious Day up from the grave He rose again! And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me, for I am His and He is mine bought with the precious blood of Christ.
- 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me; from life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.

 No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand; till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Stuart Townend (born 1963) and Keith Getty (born 1974) © 2001 Thankyou Music/Adm

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

After a silence, the Bishop says

Lord God, heavenly Father, grant to your Church today the faith of her apostles, the hope of her martyrs and the love of her Lord, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

We thank you, gracious Father, for welcoming your children to feast in your kingdom; by your love unite us and with your Spirit send us, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Bishop says

God who has called you is faithful.

May the Father, whose glory fills the heavens, cleanse you by his holiness and send you to proclaim his word. **Amen.**

May Christ, who has ascended to the heights, pour upon you the riches of his grace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, the comforter, equip you and strengthen you in your ministry.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dean says

Go in the light and peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

- I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
- I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Daniel L. Schutte (born 1947) © 1981 Daniel L. Schutte & New Dawn Music

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